

NEWS



Fran Pavley

Assemblymember, 41st District

A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood,
Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica,
Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

DECEMBER 2005 EDITION

2005 – A Year in Review

Where in the World is Fran Pavley?

Since there were very few sightings of me in or around the District Office over the past several weeks, where have I been? The answer is taking advantage of two incredible opportunities to take legislative-oriented trips to Canada and to Israel.

- Nov. 28 to Dec. 1 – U.N. Climate Change Conference, Montreal, Canada
Thousands of members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the delegates from over 180 countries that ratified the Kyoto Protocol attended this annual two-week “Conference of the Parties and Meetings of the Parties” (COP/MOP) late last month. Since the U.S. government continues to unequivocally state its opposition to any enforceable targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) or to be a party to the Kyoto Protocol, I, along with several other California state legislators and many other Americans, including wonderful bright college students, were invited to attend as “observers” and members of NGOs.

There were literally hundreds of informative sessions, meetings and exhibits to choose from on a wide variety of climate change-related topics. One of the most important issues being addressed at this international conference was intense negotiations relating to the enforcement of GHG reduction targets and what will happen after 2012, the end of the Kyoto agreement, unless extended. Several delegates expressed concern that the U.S., that contributes 25% of the world’s GHG emissions, may give other industrialized countries an excuse to back out of future agreements. Many poorer nations, especially in Africa and the small Pacific Island countries, are concerned about the costs of “adapting” to global warming. This is an important environmental justice (EJ) issue for the wealthier industrialized countries of the world. Discussions of offsets and technology transfers were analyzed.

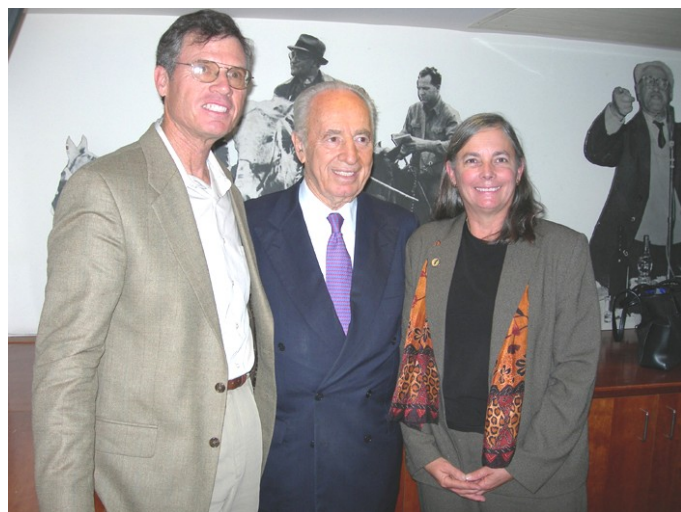
Overflow crowds attended panel discussions on emissions trading. The European Union (EU) is taking the lead on a cap-and-trade approach to help finance and reach their Kyoto reduction targets. An international registry of emissions for those countries that are a party to the Kyoto Protocol is being set up. California and American businesses are very interested in market-based incentives to help encourage, and reduce the costs of, installation and development of new clean technologies. However, the representatives of the Bush Administration – yes, they were there – made it very clear to all of us is that they will not negotiate or even discuss mandated targets, either this coming year or after 2012. By the end of the conference, the U.S. did agree to participate in meetings to discuss Kyoto-type options for the future.

Not only have I learned dozens of new acronyms, but I was very impressed with the high level of the very substantive discussions among the participants. Daily briefings by both the U.S. and international members of the Climate Action Network (CAN) were of great value in order to help me understand the politics as well as the scope and urgency of this conference.

Witnessing countries of the world coming together to help solve this global problem was inspirational. I am gratified that California – including many of our cities and businesses – are making serious efforts to reduce GHG emissions. In fact, on my way in to the conference, I spotted two large posters that recognized the leadership efforts of the City of Santa Monica, plus two California laws – one requiring reductions of GHG by 30% in automobiles, and providing incentives for the sale of fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles by allowing them access to our carpool lanes (you may recognize these bills if you've been reading this newsletter for any length of time).

- Dec. 4-14, Legislators' Mission to Israel

My husband, Andy, and I were invited to join a bipartisan group of California legislators (John Benoit, Carol Liu, Todd Spitzer, Joe Nation, Sharon and George Runner, and Joe Simitian) plus members of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and the Jewish Federation on a fascinating, thought-provoking, and unforgettable trip to Israel. We learned about the complex history, culture, and politics of the people, while visiting many historic, religious, and military sites. We were able to



l-r: Andy Pavley, Shimon Peres, Assemblymember Fran Pavley

hear first-hand from many different perspectives and from a wide range of speakers, including politicians, military leaders, a stem cell research company, journalists, and educators.

The first two days were spent in modern bustling Tel Aviv. We visited a child care facility, the square where Rabin was assassinated ten years ago, as well as a school that has done an amazing job of assimilating children of Russian immigrants. The day ended with a lengthy meeting with former Prime Minister and 1984 Nobel Prize winner Shimon Peres. Although I was not always in agreement with him on a variety of subjects, we were all impressed by his

articulate, intellectual and in-depth historical analyses and candid responses to our questions. The most critical topic, in his opinion, is disengagement from the Gaza strip and the West Bank. This controversial proposal involves the creation of a road map to negotiating permanent boundary lines with the Palestinian Authority. There is a growing concern that changing demographics could lead to a minority population of Jewish-Israeli citizens governing a majority of Arabs.

Two days were spent on a kibbutz in the northern part of the country. We were taken on a jeep trip to a hill in the Golan Heights to view the bunkers from former Syrian fortifications during the Six-Day War. The close proximity to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan was readily apparent the entire trip. Miles of security fences and dirt roads and in some cases tall thick cement walls to reduce sniper fire, separated areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority or other countries from Israeli neighborhoods and cities. A meeting with Major General (Reserved) Uzi Dayan, nephew of Moshe Dayan, gave him the chance to explain the need for the high security fences all over the country. We drove along the Jordan River to the Sea of Galilee, and later took a cable car ride to Masada.

One of the highlights of our journey was our final four days in Jerusalem. We toured the historic religious quarter of the older walled city, and visits to the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus was crucified.

We had meetings with a member of Parliament in the Knesset on immigration issues, with a top educator on the Holocaust, a visit to the Supreme Court, and an emotional tour of the newly-renovated Yad Vashem, a Jewish national memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Senator Joe Simitian and I were able to arrange a meeting with the Deputy Minister of the Environment.

Our last day included a trip to a security company and to the border of the Gaza Strip. The six-day removal of 9,000 Israeli citizens last summer was clearly evident as we viewed the rubble of their bulldozed former homes. Security walls, and listening posts and towers were being erected during our visit. The adjacent Israeli neighborhood including bomb shelters attached to each home. We stopped at one home that had a large hole in the roof from a recent attack.



Each of the elected officials on the trip was assigned a day to record the events, meetings and observations of the day's activities. To read our essays, go to <http://www.jewishla.org/html/legislators.htm>.

One final observation. The teenagers I spoke with were respected by adults, and knowledgeable and engaged in the discussion of politics and disengagement. After completion of high school, most will go into the military – boys for three years and girls for two. Seeing teens and young adults in military uniforms with an automatic rifle slung over their shoulder throughout our trip took a while to get used to, but is an accepted fact of life.

One coincidental common thread between Canada and Israel is that both are in a period of political uncertainty and transition:

- The Canadian Parliament disbanded while I was in Montreal after a majority of Parliamentarians took a vote of “no confidence” in Prime Minister Paul Martin’s Liberal Party. Canada has four active political parties, with the predominant Liberal Party having only 39% representation. Because there is no majority party, building coalitions is essential in order for anyone to be elected Prime Minister. New elections have been called for January 23, with the campaigning underway through the holidays.
- In Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon left the Likud Party and began a new political party – Kadima. Members of the Knesset and Shimon Peres have joined Sharon’s new party. The 120-member Israeli Parliament, like Canada, has a proportional representation system. Each day we were there, the papers were filled with stories of key elected or appointed officials discussing the upcoming elections in March. The hot topics involve disengagement from Gaza and the West Bank, immigration, education, political corruption, the economy, and, of course, security.

As I finish writing this newsletter, we are hearing reports of increasing military attacks dominating the news, and the unknowns of Prime Minister Sharon’s stroke and hospitalization.

Both were fascinating trips, and after the past two years in California, marked by a contentious recall and a contentious special election, I was ready for a change of pace.

Some of the Highlights of 2005 . . .

Soka University Became a Public Parkland

These beautiful 588-acres and their historic buildings became the property of the people of California on April 15. A two-year planning process is now underway to define the many wonderful uses for this newest and very significant addition to the protected parkland in the Santa Monica Mountains.



Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Area Expanded

On October 12, an additional 277 acres of vital wildlife habitat was purchased by The Nature Conservancy to add to the 300 acres already in public ownership. This was a major step forward toward the ultimate goal of 750 acres needed for natural tideland functioning. The persistence and vision of the Oxnard community to see this dream realized is paying off.

Out and Around the District

April 2	Mobile District Office at the Calabasas Farmers Market
April 2	Oxnard Earth Day Festival in Plaza Park
May 30	Topanga Days Memorial Day Parade
June 8	"Challenging the Obesity Epidemic" in Santa Monica
July 9	"Scam Stoppers" event in Tarzana
July 10	Mobile District Office at Channel Islands Farmers Market
July 30	Mobile District Office at the Malibu Arts Festival
August 12	"The Climate Change Crisis...Can California Create a Way Out?" in Santa Monica
September 18	Mobile District Office at the Palisades Farmers Market
October 29	Children and Family Health Fair in Oxnard
October 30	"Community Thanks the Firefighters" BBQ in Oak Park
November 2	Emergency Preparedness Forum at Pierce College
November 5	"Scam Stoppers" in Agoura Hills

Nov. 8 Special Election – "They just said no"

California's voters rejected every initiative at the Governor's special election, with widespread displeasure reported at the time, energy and money spent to hold the special election and wage the campaigns. However, some of the issues are expected to be back again next year at either the June primary or November general election or some could reappear if introduced in the Legislature in bill form.

Rain at the Beginning

Heavy winter storms pounded the state, with some areas reporting in excess of 45" of rainfall. For the most part, the 41st AD was spared major damage.

Fires in the Fall

The end of September was marked by wildfires that spread across the northwest edge of the District. A near flawless response, including a unified command and massing of resources, kept the fire from jumping the 101 freeway, which has historically sent fires racing to the ocean. On Sunday, October 30 I hosted a thank-you BBQ in Oak Park for the heroic firefighters, which drew an estimated 1,000 grateful residents.



Sustainable41 Business Award

July of 2006 marked the kickoff of this new award that I instituted to recognize district businesses that are incorporating sustainable practices into the way that they operate.

Recipients to date are **Albertsons Market in Calabasas** (July), for their used battery collection point; **Ogden Cleaners in Malibu** (August), for their natural dry cleaning that uses no perchloroethylene; **Regal Cleaners in Pacific Palisades** (September), with owner Stephen Green the founder of Dry Cleaners for a Clean Environment; **Ambrose Hotel in Santa Monica** (October), for a wide range of "green" practices including composting of food scraps and use of environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies; **Ventura Printing in Oxnard** (November), for their investment in waterless printing technology that reduces waste and hazardous air emissions; and **Café Carolina in Encino** (December), that just completed all 12 environmental steps to be certified by the Green Restaurant Association.

Thank you to every business that is looking for ways to do business in more environmentally-friendly ways.

Holiday Giving

There's still time to help others who are less fortunate in this season marked by the spirit of giving. I chose "**Spark of Love**," which is a toy drive sponsored by all city and county fire departments. You can still bring unwrapped toys to any local fire station **through tomorrow, Tuesday, December 20**, to be distributed to thousands of children.

Whatever you do, and however you will be celebrating in the coming weeks, I wish you and your families peace and happiness, and a wonderful new year ahead.



Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Budget Committee
Education Committee
Transportation Committee
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality
Select Committee on Runaway Production
Select Committee on Ports

Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

HOW TO REACH ME:

District Office:
6355 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 205
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Phones: (818) 596-4141 • (805) 644-4141 • (310)
395-3414
Fax: (818) 596-4150

Capitol Office:
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041
Phone: (916) 319-2041
Fax: (916) 319-2141

E-mail: assemblymember.pavley@assembly.ca.gov
Or visit my website at www.assembly.ca.gov

If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive these newsletters, please e-mail their name, mailing address and e-mail address, and I'll be happy to add them to my list.